

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 03004 231732Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 DOE-11 H-02 INR-10 INT-05 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 USIA-15 OES-07 SP-02
SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 PA-02 PRS-00 NEA-10
ARA-14 /155 W

-----001701 240258Z /21

R 231634Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3459
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS LONDON 03004

USEEC
USOECD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, UK
SUBJECT: BRITISH OIL PRODUCTION

REF: (A) LONDON 1623; (B) LONDON 464

1. AFTER EIGHT MONTHS ON A PLATEAU, BRITISH SECTOR
NORTH SEA CRUDE OIL PRODUCTION FIGURES SHOWED A MODEST
INCREASE IN JANUARY TO AN AVERAGE OF 884,823 BARRELS PER
DAY. THIS COMPARES WITH 851,102 IN DECEMBER, 859,356 IN
SEPTEMBER, AND 836,417 BARRELS PER DAY AS LONG AGO AS
MAY.

2. ALTHOUGH REVISED U.K. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY PRODUCTION
ESTIMATES FOR 1978 ARE YET TO BE RELEASED, ONLY MODEST
INCREASES ARE ANTICIPATED FOR THE NEXT SEVERAL MONTHS.
THESE SHOULD INCLUDE THE INITIATION OF THISTLE FIELD
PRODUCTION. ADDITIONAL TECHNICAL COMPLICATIONS TO THOSE
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NOTED IN REF (B) WHICH ARE BEING ENCOUNTERED INCLUDE
STRUCTURAL DAMAGE TO THE ARGYLL PLATFORM. A SEVERE
WINTER IN THE NORTH SEA IS HAMPERING THE LOADING OF OIL
DIRECTLY FROM PLATFORMS INTO TANKERS. MEANWHILE, A
LONGER-THAN-ANTICIPATED INSTALLATION TIME BOTH FOR
MODULAR UNITS ATOP THE FIRST NINIAN CONCRETE PLATFORM
AND FOR THE NINIAN PIPELINE/SULLOM VOE TERMINAL COMPLEX

HAS RENDERED THE FIRST FLOW OF OIL FROM THE LARGE
NINIAN FIELD UNLIKELY UNTIL NEXT AUTUMN.

BREWSTER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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